

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method of treating water in a pond to reduce the nutrient level and reduce the particulate matter level in the water which comprises the steps of;

providing a pond;

providing a wetlands zone associated with the pond which includes nutrient level reducing vegetation, facultative bacteria, substrate material for the bacteria, and a treatment apparatus which includes a stack and a disbursing module with a plurality of exit apertures;

receiving water to be treated in the module;

causing water to be treated to flow through the module so as to cause particulate matter to deposit from the water into the module whereby particulate and sediment matter within the water separates from the water;

causing water to exit the exit apertures and flow through the substrate and be exposed to the nutrient level reducing vegetation and bacteria;

causing water which has been treated to exit the wetlands zone and flow to the pond;

whereby, the nutrient level and particulate level of the water exiting the wetlands zone pond is less than the water entering the wetlands zone and the clarity of water is increased.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 15 wherein water within the module is at a substantially lower pressure and velocity as compared to the pressure and velocity of water received by the module.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 15 wherein there is provided a conduit connected to the module for directing water to the module and wherein the volume of water flow in the conduit and the disbursing module is substantially similar but both the water pressure and the water velocity in the module is substantially less than in the conduit.

18. (Cancelled) A water treatment apparatus for treating pond water and constructed to be positioned in a wetlands zone having a bottom and a top surface, the treatment apparatus including;

a hollow cylindrical stack formation to be supported on the wetlands zone bottom and extend through the top surface and said stack having at least one coupling formation; and

at least one (1) elongated disbursing module having a bottom, an arcuate upper surface joined to the bottom and constructed to define a plurality of water exit apertures, an inlet end for receiving water and an outlet end constructed to engage to the stack coupling formation, said module constructed to be positioned on the wetlands zone bottom.

19. (Cancelled) An apparatus as in claim 18 wherein the disbursing module bottom is substantially flat.

20. (Cancelled) An apparatus as in claim 18 wherein a conduit is provided to the inlet end and the module is substantially larger than the inlet end.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the collection and distribution of water comprising,

an elongated, ~~eylindrieally~~ tubularly-shaped and horizontally-positioned module through which water can flow, having a bottom portion, an upper portion which is arcuately shaped and defines a plurality of flow apertures, and said module having a pair of ends, with a fluid coupling construction at one end, and

an elongated, ~~eylindrieally~~ tubularly-shaped and vertically-positioned stack, said stack having a base portion and a body portion, said base portion having a fluid coupling construction and adapted to engage the fluid coupling construction on the module so as to form a fluid coupling assembly for the flow of water between the module and the stack, and said body portion of said stack constructed to extend vertically upwardly from the base portion, so that water can flow between the module and the stack through the fluid coupling assembly.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 21 wherein each fluid coupling construction includes a tubularly-shaped member and said members are constructed to interfit with each other so as to form the fluid coupling assembly.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 22 wherein the stack and the module form a unit having an L-like shape.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 22 wherein ~~the upper portion of the horizontally-positionable member is arcuately shaped~~ the bottom portion of the horizontally-positionable member is substantially flat.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 24 wherein, in cross section, the height of the horizontally-positioned module is about 10 inches and the width of the module is about 12 inches.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 21 wherein said module includes a second fluid coupling construction at the other end of the module; and

there is further provided at least one additional elongated ~~cylindrically~~tubularly-shaped and horizontally-positionable module, having a pair of ends and a fluid coupling construction at least one end.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 26 wherein said base further includes at least one additional fluid coupling construction for coupling to a module's fluid construction coupling construction.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 27 wherein each module coupling construction is adapted to engage one of (a) another module fluid coupling construction and (b) a base fluid coupling constructions.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 21 wherein the flow-rate through the module apertures is about the same as the flow rate between the base and module fluid coupling construction.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 21 wherein the water flow rate capacity of such module is at least 3600 gallons per minute.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 21 wherein there is further provided a pump for causing water flow between said stack and said module.

32. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus for treating pond water and constructed to be positioned in a wetlands zone associated with a pond said apparatus comprising:

(A) an elongated, hollow and substantially horizontally disposed disbursement module which defines:

- 1) a passageway for fluid flow;
- 2) an upper portion defining a plurality of flow openings in communication with said passageway;
- 3) a particulate-receiving bottom portion;
- 4) a fluid coupling construction at one end of the passageway and in communication therewith;
- 5) an inlet construction at the other end of the passageway having an inlet aperture in communication therewith, which aperture is substantially smaller than the passageway so as to promote the separation and deposition of particulate matter on said particulate receiving bottom portion; and

- (B) an elongated, hollow and vertically disposed stack formation which defines a fluid coupling construction adapted to couple to the coupling construction of the disbursement module so as to form a coupling assembly for communication between the stack formation and the dispersing module.

33. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 being constructed so that the velocity of fluid within the passageway is about 90% less than the velocity of fluid at the inlet aperture.

34. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the ratio of the cross sectional area of the inlet aperture to the cross sectional area of the passageway is about 1 to 10.

35. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 which is constructed so that the fluid flow entering the inlet aperture and the fluid flow exiting the passageway through the flow openings is about the same.

36. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the upper portion of the disbursement module is arcuately shaped and the bottom portion is essentially flat with said upper portion and said bottom portion being joined together.

37. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the upper portion includes a plurality of spaced ribbed members and wherein said flow openings are positioned between and recessed below said ribbed members.

38. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the vertical stack formation and horizontal disbursement module are at about right angles relative to each other, so as to form an “L-like” configuration.

39. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 38 wherein the vertical stack formation and the horizontal disbursement module are positioned relative to one another at an angle less than about 90° and the horizontal module is sloped slightly toward the stack formation.

40. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the stack formation includes a base portion and a body portion, said base portion including said coupling construction and said body portion constructed to extend vertically from the base portion.

41. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 40 wherein said body portion is generally cylindrical.

42. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein said fluid coupling construction includes a tubularly-shaped member and said members are constructed to interfit with each other so as to form the fluid coupling assembly.

43. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein in cross section, the height of the horizontally positioned module is about 10” and the width of the module is about 12”.

44. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 40 wherein said base further includes at least one additional fluid coupling construction for coupling to a module fluid coupling construction.

45. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the water flow capacity of said module is at least about 3600 gallons per minute.

46. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein there is further provided a pump for causing fluid flow between said stack and said module.

47. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein the disbursement module includes a plurality of adjacent sections which are coupled together and in fluid communication so that fluid flows between the inlet construction and the stacked formation.

48. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein a wetland zone includes a bottom and a top surface and said disbursement module is constructed to rest on the bottom and the stack formation is constructed to extend upwardly from the module toward the top surface.

49. (Previously Presented) A treatment apparatus as in claim 32 wherein there is further provided a cover for sealing engagement with the stacked formation.

50. (Previously Presented) A water treatment apparatus for use in a water treatment pond to remove impurities from the water, said water treatment apparatus comprising:

a substantially horizontally disposed disbursement module having a first end, a spaced second end, a top and a bottom, said disbursement module including a water inlet positioned proximate said first end, said water inlet having a cross sectional area that is smaller than that of said disbursement module, the difference in cross sectional area between said water inlet and said disbursement module sufficient to promote the settlement of the impurities to said bottom of said disbursement module;

a plurality of exit apertures positioned along the length of said disbursement module, said exit apertures adapted to permit water to exit said disbursement module;

said disbursement module further including an outlet positioned proximate said second end of said disbursement module;

a hollow stack including a first end defining an entranceway and a second end spaced from said first end, said entranceway permitting the removal of the impurities that have collected at said second end of said stack;

said stack further including an opening that is in fluid communication with said entranceway, said opening of said stack adapted to permit connection of said outlet of said disbursement module to said stack in a manner that permits impurities collected within said disbursement module to gravitate toward and into said second end of said stack to permit removal of said impurities from said stack through said entranceway.

51. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50, wherein said outlet has a cross sectional area approximately the same as the cross sectional area of said opening of said disbursement module.

52. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50, wherein said disbursement module includes a plurality of spaced apart ribs positioned along its length.

53. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 52, where in said exit apertures are positioned in recessed portions between said ribs.

54. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50, wherein said bottom surface of said disbursement module is flat.

55. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50, wherein said top surface of said disbursement module is arcuate.

56. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50 wherein said stack is adapted to extend above the surface of the water treatment pond.

57. (Previously Presented) The water treatment apparatus of claim 50, further including a cap adapted to cover said entranceway to said stack.